



Opportunity to strengthen capacities for adaptation and resilience through the EPIC model on *knowledge co-generation between universities and cities*

**08-09 March 2021 workshop on using the EPIC model in Asian cities
To take place in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network conference
Tokyo, Japan**

Are you a university or municipality that wants to strengthen climate-resilience in your city? The EPIC model has a proven track record of increasing climate-resilience and sustainability by forming key partnerships between city officials and local universities.

BACKGROUND

All cities and communities contend with development challenges and many cities have nearby university faculty and students who can help in their solution. But truly constructive university-community partnerships are rare due to academic researchers' inattention to practical application, power dynamics and conflict in communities, broad differences in university vs. community organizational culture and incentives, and mutual misunderstanding of the potential value of university-city collaboration.

The EPIC (*Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities*) model has a proven track record of overcoming these familiar barriers and, in doing so, identifying win-win community-university partnerships — by first asking communities what they need and want and then matching those needs to existing faculty courses and programs of study. In doing so, EPIC offers an extremely efficient and robust yet flexible means for harnessing university-based knowledge and applying it in practice. Presently, 50+ universities in the U.S, Latin America and Africa have programs that are implementing the EPIC model, and they have completed nearly 2000 community-identified projects in more than 250 cities. These programs work together in the [EPIC Network](#) (EPIC-N). For this Asia-Pacific training event, the EPIC-N is partnering with the UN Environment Programme's [Global Adaptation Network](#) (GAN), which provides a worldwide platform to distribute and exchange climate change adaptation knowledge, and [START](#), which promotes science capacity development in Asia and Africa.

OPPORTUNITY

EPIC-N, in partnership with the GAN and START, are pleased to offer a learning workshop on the EPIC model for Asian countries. ***This workshop will provide a unique opportunity for collaborating pairs of individuals representing municipal governments and nearby universities to gain skills on the use of the EPIC-N model to strengthen capacities for climate change adaptation and resilience in the city and return home with a work plan to implement it.*** Upon completion of the workshop, participants will also be awarded a certificate of training on the EPIC model.

QUALIFICATIONS

The learning process requires **pairs** of candidates (at least one person from a local university and at least one person from a local municipal/city government within the same area). The ideal pairing combines decision-makers and/or people-of-influence on both sides. For example, from the community side, a city manager, assistant city manager, chief resilience officer or equivalent; on the university side, a department or program head, senior administrator, or distinguished professor. The training will be conducted in English. The members of the designated pair need not have collaborated previously although a history of collaboration or active progress toward developing a collaboration is preferred.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for the event will proceed in three steps. First, we request an expression of interest from qualified pairs by their filling out the survey below. Candidates must respond to all questions on the expression of interest form.

Secondly, the workshop organizers will follow up with qualified applications to seek more in-depth information from each applicant pair. Finalists will be determined by the end of October and, for final eligibility, applications will be asked to consider a set of pre-workshop materials on EPIC basics and examples, as applied to their circumstance.

The expression of interest application form can be accessed here:

<https://start.org/epic-asia-application>

The deadline for application submissions is 15 September 2020. Please send your application to mmurisa@start.org.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the application, contact Mzime Murisa (mmurisa@start.org)

For more information on the EPIC-N model and network go to www.epicn.org or write to info@epicn.org

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving your expressions of interest by **15 September**.